The Inhumans of Attilan are an ancient and secret race, humans transformed in prehistory by the alien Kree to be used as biological super weapons, and then abandoned as a failed experiment. The Inhumans have been outsiders ever since--neither human nor Kree--burdened by their legacy.

Abused and exploited by others for too long, the Inhumans have finally taken charge of their own destiny. Under the leadership of the noble Black Bolt, they have left their lunar sanctuary and conquered the Kree Stellar Empire. Bred to rule, engineered to be royalty, the Inhumans intend to lead the Kree to a new golden age.

INHUMANS

Under the command of their insane majestor Vulcan, the Shi'Ar have gone to war with their neighbors the Kree. Despite their prodigious might, the Shi'Ar have suffered a humiliating defeat. Vulcan has perished, and the Shi'Ar war machine was crippled. The Imperium has been forced to accept the rule of the Kree.

The Inhuman Royal family now finds itself with the immense responsibility of ruling two interstellar empires, both of which have been weakened by war. But Black Bolt also perished in the war, and it is left to his widow, Medusa, to take the throne.

The everyday demands of wise government alone are vast, and other more active threats are quickly making themselves plain. In mourning, is Queen Medusa strong enough to rule the stars?

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KON-TAR, A RIM-WORLD OF THE KREE STELLAR EMPIRE.
--AND, WITH DUE SOLEMNITY, DO YOU, IKARYS OF ATTILAN, RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE CONSULSHIP OF KON-TAR?
TO RULE THIS PRINCIPALITY OF THE KREE EMPIRE WITH FAIRNESS AND WISDOM, IN THE NAME OF QUEEN MEDUSA?
I GLADLY ACCEPT THIS HONOR.
SO BE IT.
AND THE WORDS OF THE HONORED WITNESSES TO THIS INSTALLATION...
...CRYSTALIA AMAQUELIN OF ATTILAN?
SO BE IT.
AND YOUR NOBLE HUSBAND, RONAN OF THE KREE?
SO BE IT.
YOUR ELECTION PLEASES THE PEOPLE OF KON-TAR, DEAR IKARYS. I HEAR THEM CHEERING IN THE STREETS ALREADY.
THAT'S NOT CHEERING. IT'S SCREAMING.

KON-TAR IS SITUATED LESS THAN A DAY'S JUMP FROM THE SO-CALLED "CEDED TERRITORIES"... A CONTESTED REGION NOW RULED BY KING BLASTAAR AND THE FORCES OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE.
THAT GROWING THREAT WAS PRECISELY WHY THE ROYAL LINE OF ATTILAN WANTED A STRONG CONSULSHIP ESTABLISHED HERE.
AND PRECISELY WHY MY SISTER, QUEEN MEDUSA, SENT ME AND LORD RONAN HERE TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT.
BUT IT SEEMS BLASTAAR WILL NOT EVEN GIVE US TIME TO DO THAT.
HIS MINIONS FALL UPON KON-TAR, LED BY HIS MOST VICIOUS LIEUTENANT RAANKOR.
DEATH TO THE INHUMAN OVERLORDS!
I WILL FACE THESE DEVILS.
HURRY TO A SECURE PLACE, LADY CRYSTAL.
I AM QUITE CAPABLE OF LOOKING AFTER MYSELF, DEAR SIR.
AND SO, MAY I REMIND YOU, IS THE CONSUL DELEGATION.
LOCKJAW-- FETCH!
A SWIRL OF TELEPORTATION ENERGY, AND IN MOMENTS, LOCKJAW HAS REAPPEARED AT STREET LEVEL...

HE IS NO LONGER ALONE.
HE HAS BROUGHT GORGON, MASTER OF THE ROYAL BODYGUARD.
NEW INHUMAN ELITE... FORWARD!
DUTY CALLS

FOR ATTILAN!
DRIVE THESE SCUMSACK FLARKS BACK INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE THAT SPAWNED THEM!
RRRAAWWRR!
YAAAAAG'GH!

PICK YOUR TARGETS! FIRE AT WILL!
PLUM
PLUM
PLUM
PLUM
YAAGHH!
YOU! RAANKOR! GATHER YOUR VERMIN RAIDERS AND BEGONE!
DO THE CEDED TERRITORIES REALLY WANT TO LEARN THE COST OF INVITING WAR WITH ATTILAN? THE SHI'AR CAN TELL YOU HOW MUCH THAT LESSON HURTS!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
IT'S NOT SO LONG AGO YOU SOFT-SKINNED INHUMAN ARISTOS CONVERED IN THE SHADOWS OF THE TERRAN MOON!
AFRAID TO SHOW YOUR FACES LEST THE GALAXY MOCK YOU FOR THE FAILED KREE GENEFREAKS YOU ARE!
NOW YOU STRUT AROUND THE COSMOS, PRETENDING TO BE THE HIGH-BORN MASTERS OF ALL!
KING BLASTAAR WILL SHOW YOU HOW THE BLOODY WORK OF CONQUERING IS PROPERLY DONE!

RAAAGHH!
UGHHN!
TAKE THIS MESSAGE BACK TO YOUR ILL-GOTTEN HELLHOLE!
AND TELL BLASTAAR HIS DAYS ARE NUMBERED, AND THE CEDED TERRITORIES ARE MERELY BORROWED TERRITORIES!
THE HELL YOU SAY!
SSSHHRAAAKK
NGGHH!

SO? META-TALENTS, EH? EYE-BEAMS? AND TO THINK I WAS GIVING YOU A SPORTING CHANCE.
K-TT
WE INHUMANS HAVE TALENTS OF OUR OWN!

GAAAHHNN!
Y-YOU'LL PAY...F-FOR THAT...
THOOMMMM
LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING ALL THE FUN.
HA HA HA! NO ONE COULD ACCUSE ME OF THAT...
...NOT EVEN YOU!

KREE OF KON-TAR! REST EASY!
THE NEGATIVE ZONE ATTACKERS ARE BROKEN AND DEFEATED!
THUS FALL ALL ENEMIES OF THIS GREAT EMPIRE!
THE INHUMANS PROMISED STRONG LEADERSHIP TO THE KREE! WE HAVE NOT RENEGED ON THIS!
DESPITE THE PRICE WE HAVE PAID IN OUR OWN ROYAL BLOOD, WE HAVE LED YOU TO VICTORY IN THE SHI'AR WAR!
THIS IS WHAT WE BRING TO YOU! THIS IS WHAT WE BRING TODAY IN THE PERSON OF YOUR NEW CONSUL IKARYS!
STRENGTH! SECURITY! UNWAVERING LEADERSHIP!
GOR-GON! GOR-GON! GOR-GON!

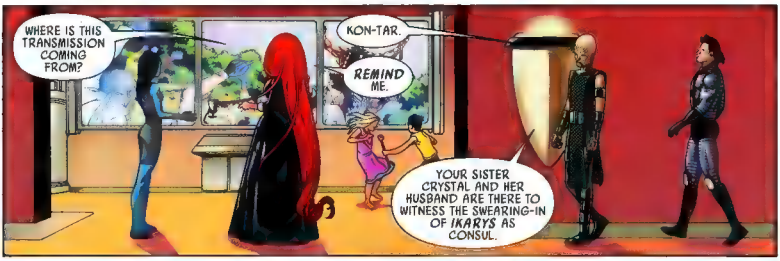
THE INHUMAN CITY OF ATTILAN.
IN THE SKIES ABOVE HALA, THE KREE THRONEWORLD.
HAVE YOU CHOSEN YOUR CREW, COUSIN TRITON?
I HAVE, KARNAK. HAND-PICKED MEN FROM BOTH THE NEW INHUMAN ELITE AND THE KREE STELLAR COMMAND.
RA-VENN HERE HAS AGREED TO BE MY SECOND IN COMMAND.
THE FINEST SHIP IN THE FLEET HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR YOU. I CANNOT STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MISSION TOO M--
IN HIS BID TO END THE WAR WITH THE SHI'AR, MY HUSBAND DETONATED THE TERRIGEN BOMB.
THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCE WAS THIS RIP IN SPACE-TIME, THE FAULT.
BUT BLACK BOLT MAY HAVE SURVIVED THE DETONATION, TRITON.
GO INTO THE FAULT AND FIND HIM. BRING MY HUSBAND BACK TO ME.
OR AT LEAST, BRING ME HIS BODY SO THAT I MAY BURY HIM.
I WILL, MY QUEEN.
MY QUEEN, THERE ARE A DOZEN MORE CONSULS WAITING TO HAVE THEIR SELECTION FORMALLY APPROVED.
LATER. I AM TIRED.
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE INSTALL ABLE INHUMAN CONSULS TO RULE KEY KREE WORLDS AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE. WE MUST BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM OF WAR WON.
YES, YES. SOON.

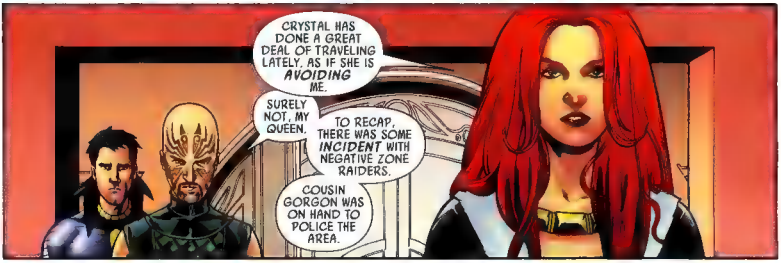
DUTY CALLS, MAJESTY AND--
DO NOT PRESUME TO SPEAK TO ME ABOUT DUTY.
SOME TWISTED SENSE OF DUTY GOT MY HUSBAND KILLED.
YOUR MAJESTY, THE T-BOMB WAS--
ONLY EVER A WEAPON. ISN'T THAT TRUE, MAXIMUS?
YES, WELL, UH...

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, TERRIGEN MUTATION HAS GIVEN WE INHUMANS OUR UNIQUE GIFTS.
BLACK BOLT'S DEVICE WAS MADE TO SOUND SO NOBLE, THAT IT WOULD "BRING AN END TO WAR BY MAKING EVERYONE INHUMAN."
NO. MY EYES, IT WAS ONLY EVER A WEAPON.
THE LOGIC WAS SOUND, MY QUEEN. INHUMANS DO NOT FIGHT INHUMANS.

HA! MANUFACTURE ENOUGH OF THEM AND THERE'S FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING!
BLACK BOLT DELUDED HIMSELF. THE NOTION THAT THE T-BOMB WOULD BRING AN END TO WAR WAS MERELY SALVE TO HIS CONSCIENCE.
HE COULD NOT STOMACH THE HARD TRUTH.

WHATEVER YOU BELIEVE, MAJESTY, IT WORKED.
THE BOMB ENDED THE CONFLICT. IT DESTROYED THE TYRANT VULCAN AND LEFT THE SHI'AR BEGGING FOR MERCY. IT LEFT US AS THE VICTORS.
IT LEFT ME A WIDOW.
WE HAVE LED THE KREE EMPIRE TO TOTAL VICTORY AGAINST AN ANCIENT AND HATED FOE.
THE KREE PEOPLE ADORE US NOW.
GOOD...
...BECAUSE I HATE US.


WHERE IS THIS TRANSMISSION COMING FROM?
KON-TAR.
REMIND ME.
YOUR SISTER CRYSTAL AND HER HUSBAND ARE THERE TO WITNESS THE SWEARING-IN OF IKARYS AS CONSUL.


CRYSTAL HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL OF TRAVELING LATELY. AS IF SHE IS AVOIDING ME.
SURELY NOT, MY QUEEN.
TO RECAP... THERE WAS SOME INCIDENT WITH NEGATIVE ZONE RAIDERS.
COUSIN GORGON WAS ON HAND TO POLICE THE AREA.

THE COMMON RABBLE ARE LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF HIM! LOOK AT THEM YELL AND STOMP!
THE APPROVAL RATING OF THE INHUMAN ROYAL FAMILY IS THE HIGHEST IT'S BEEN SINCE WE TOOK CONTROL OF THE KREE.
VICTORY OVER THE SHI'AR HAS MADE US HEROES.
BUT...?

MUST THERE ALWAYS BE A "BUT?"
WHERE YOU ARE CONCERNED, KARNAK, YES. ALWAYS A SUBTEXT, ALWAYS A NUANCE...

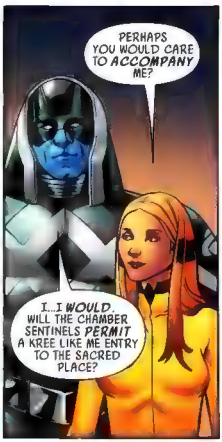
SINCE YOU ASK, WE MUST BE CAREFUL HOW WE MANAGE POPULAR OPINION.
AS I SAID, THE KREE PUBLIC ADORE US, BUT THE KREE ARISTOCRACY IS BEGINNING TO RESENT THE WAY WE ARE ECLIPSING ITS TRADITIONAL POWER.
SOME COMPLAIN THAT WE'VE PUT THEM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CASTE SYSTEM, NO BETTER THAN ALPHA PRIMITIVES.
FURTHERMORE... AND THIS IS A DELICATE MATTER...
OH, WE'RE ALL FAMILY HERE, KARNAK.

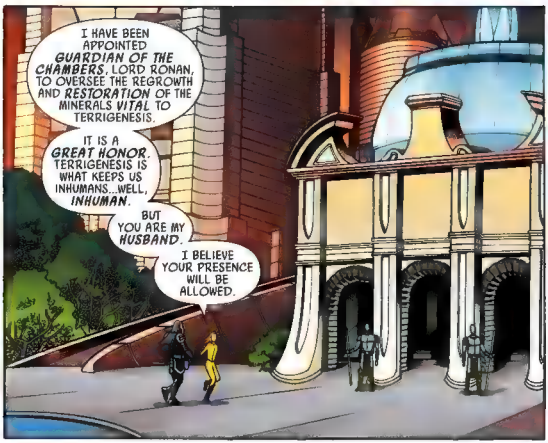
WELL...GORGON HAS NO AMBITION TO *RULE*, BUT HE IS *ENRAGED* AT BLACK BOLT'S DEATH.
HE CHANNELS HIS WRATH--AND *GUILT*--INTO DISPLAYS OF STRENGTH LIKE *THIS*. THE KREE *LOVE* HIM FOR IT, AND...
...AND IT WON'T TAKE THEM LONG TO *FAVOR* HIM AS THE STRONG KING THEY NEED TO *REPLACE* BLACK BOLT.
PRECISELY.
DULY NOTED.
I AM AN *ACCIDENTAL* QUEEN, KARNAK. I NEVER *ASKED* FOR THIS OFFICE.
AHURA WILL TAKE HIS FATHER'S PLACE ON THE THRONE AS SOON AS HE IS OF AGE. I WILL NOT ALLOW *ANYONE* TO USURP HIS SUCCESSION.
SO *I* AM QUEEN, AND I WILL HOLD THE THRONE IN FAITH FOR MY SON.
AND I WILL *STAY* QUEEN UNTIL HE IS FIT TO RULE.

HELLO, AHURA. HELLO, LUNA.
HELLO, UNCLE MAXI!
WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
I AM PLAYING THAT I AM KING, UNCLE MAXI! AND LUNA IS A PROPER PRINCESS!
OH, THAT'S AN EXCELLENT GAME. I USED TO PLAY IT MYSELF WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE.
I USED TO DREAM OF BEING KING.
DON'T YOU PLAY IT ANY MORE, UNCLE MAXI?
AHURA! SO SILLY! UNCLE MAX IS TOO OLD TO PLAY GAMES!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW.
EVEN GROWN-UPS LIKE TO PLAY THAT PARTICULAR GAME FROM TIME TO TIME.

ATTILAN, INNER COURT.
FZZM

A LONG TRIP BACK FROM KON-TAR, LADY CRYSTAL, AND A LONG DAY. YOU ARE WEARY, NO DOUBT.
INDEED. BUT BEFORE I RETIRE, I INTEND TO CHECK IN ON THE TERRIGEN CHAMBERS.
THE STOCKS ARE SO WOEFULLY DEPLETED BECAUSE OF...BECAUSE OF THE BOMB.


PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO ACCOMPANY ME?
I...I WOULD. WILL THE CHAMBER SENTINELS PERMIT A KREE LIKE ME ENTRY TO THE SACRED PLACE?


I HAVE BEEN APPOINTED GUARDIAN OF THE CHAMBERS, LORD RONAN, TO OVERSEE THE REGROWTH AND RESTORATION OF THE MINERALS VITAL TO TERRIGENESIS.
IT IS A GREAT HONOR. TERRIGENESIS IS WHAT KEEPS US INHUMANS...WELL, INHUMAN.
BUT YOU ARE MY HUSBAND.
I BELIEVE YOUR PRESENCE WILL BE ALLOWED.

THE TERRIGEN CHAMBERS, ATTILAN UNDERCITY.
ALBAKOR! HOW IS THE TERRIGEN GROWTH PROGRESSING?
LADY CRYSTAL... AND LORD RONAN, I SEE!
I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT TODAY HAS SEEN ALMOST EIGHT NANOCRONS OF EXPANSION!
SO MUCH?
DON'T TEASE! THAT IS FINE PROGRESS GIVEN THE LIMITS OF OUR RESOURCES.
AND HOW LONG BEFORE THE TERRIGEN SUPPLY IS BROUGHT BACK TO OPTIMUM LEVELS?
SIXTY-FOUR YEARS, SIR.
SO SOON?

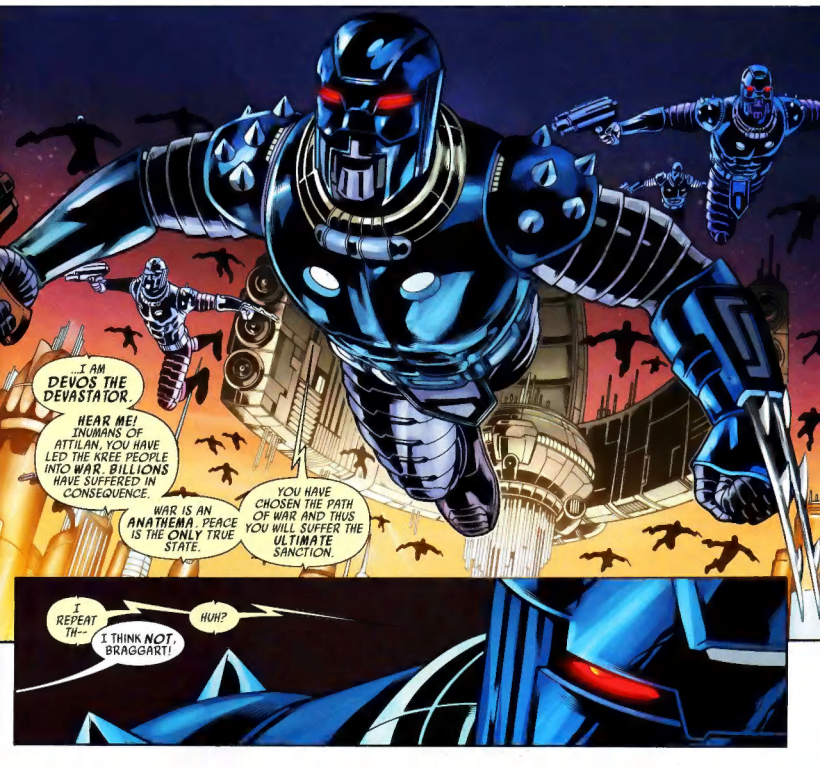
THE CONCOURSE OF ANCESTORS, THE ATTILAN UNDERCITY.
SO, JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, DO YOU THINK MEDUSA WILL COPE?
COPE, SIR?
WITH THE RIGORS OF RULE? HER HEART HAS BEEN TORN FROM HER.
SOME SAY THE HEART OF THE INHUMANS HAS BEEN TORN OUT.
WE ARE BRED TO RULE, SIR. BRED TO OUR DUTY.
OUR EMOTIONS COME SECOND PLACE TO OUR RESPONSIBILITIES.
EASY TO SAY.
AND HARD TO DO, I AGREE. BUT IT IS IN OUR BLOOD.
HNH.
I DO NOT KNOW IF I COULD MANAGE SUCH A FEAT.
IF YOU WERE TAKEN FROM ME, I...
RONAN, OUR MARRIAGE WAS ONLY EVER SUPPOSED TO BE SYMBOLIC.
YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN ABOUT EMOTIONS?
WHAT-- WHAT IS THAT? IT SOUNDS LIKE LAUGHTER.

THAT'S NOT LAUGHTER.
GREAT RANDAK, IT'S ALPHA PRIMITIVES!
BUT THEY ARE NOTHING MORE THAN ATTILAN'S MINDLESS SLAVES!
MY DEAR HUSBAND, CAN'T YOU SEE?
SOMETHING HAS DRIVEN THEM INTO A FERAL RAGE!

PALACE COMMAND LEVEL.
ARECCCCC
ARECCCC
ARECCC
WHAT IS THIS COMMOTION?
THE PLANETARY GRID JUST LIT UP, MAJESTY.
AN UNAUTHORIZED VESSEL HAS ENTERED HALA'S ORBITAL ZONE.

IDENTITY?
IT'S SHIELDED, AND DISPLAYS NO TRANSPONDER TRACE, MY QUEEN.
WHAT IS THAT NOISE IT'S BROADCASTING?
WE'RE WASHING IT THROUGH THE UNI-TRANS SYSTEMS NOW, LORD GORGON...
TRANSLATION NOW AVAILABLE.
ON SPEAKERS!

--UMANS OF ATTILAN, YOU HAVE LED THE KREE PEOPLE INTO WAR. BILLIONS HAVE SUFFERED IN CONSEQUENCE.
WAR IS AN ANATHEMA. PEACE IS THE ONLY TRUE STATE.
YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE PATH OF WAR AND THUS YOU WILL SUFFER THE ULTIMATE SANCTION.
I REPEAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT...


...I AM DEVOS THE DEVASTATOR.
HEAR ME! INUMANS OF ATTILAN, YOU HAVE LED THE KREE PEOPLE INTO WAR. BILLIONS HAVE SUFFERED IN CONSEQUENCE.
WAR IS AN ANATHEMA. PEACE IS THE ONLY TRUE STATE.
YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE PATH OF WAR AND THUS YOU WILL SUFFER THE ULTIMATE SANCTION.
I REPEAT TH--
I THINK NOT, BRAGGART!
HUH?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
WHAT?!
NEXT ISSUE: DEVASTATED!